

**CITY of BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION  
MONDAY, JULY 2, 2012  
6:30 PM**

Council President McCarthy called the public speaking session to order at 6:35 pm.

The city clerk took the roll call and she announced there was a quorum.

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, Colon, Taylor-Moye, T. McCarthy, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, Blunt, dePara, Ayala, Martinez, Baker

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, JULY 2, 2012, AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.

**NAME**

**SUBJECT**

Glen Guild  
39 Oliver Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Noise Ordinance and Violations  
not enforced by the City.

Council President McCarthy called the speaker to come forward to address the city council *-called three times; the speaker wasn't present.*

Council President McCarthy stated that the following persons signed up to speak, but their names were later crossed out: Clyde Nicholson and Amos Brown (*neither were present*).

The public hearing session closed at 6:40 pm.

*Council President McCarthy called for a caucus prior to the city council meeting at 6:45 pm.*

*The caucus ended at 7:00 pm.*

**CITY of BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, JULY 2, 2012  
7:00 PM**

**City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace  
Bridgeport, Connecticut**

ATTENDANCE: Council members: Brannelly, M. McCarthy, Olson, Colon, Taylor-Moye, Olson, Brantley, T. McCarthy, Lyons, Vizzo-Paniccia, Bonney, Blunt, dePara, Ayala, Martinez, Paoletto, Baker, Holloway

ABSENT: Council members: Austin, Silva, Curwen

Prayer - The prayer was offered by Council member Olson.

Pledge of Allegiance – the pledge was led by Council member Baker.

Roll Call - the city clerk took the roll call and announced there was a quorum.

Moment of Silence – Mayor Finch asked for a moment of silence for Dorothy Caviness, Deborah Caviness's mother who recently passed away. He expressed that Dorothy Caviness raised a wonderful family, was important to other families and she will be missed!

Announcements:

Council President McCarthy made the following announcements:

Council member Curwen was on vacation.

Council member Silva was recovering from additional surgery.

Mayor Finch stated that the parks master plan would be implemented. He said there was excitement about the plan, noting that we are the “*parks city*”. He recalled 100 years ago when P.T. Barnum was around during 1870 and when the first park was constructed during the civil war when the country was coming apart. He mentioned the work that was done in Central Park in New York, noting that they had the same genius come to Bridgeport to design Seaside Park and Beardsley Park and that’s why we are commonly known as the “Park City”. However, he said the city hasn’t had a parks master plan for years. He commented that he wanted to see Pleasure Beach open again, as well as seeing other parks in the city restored. He recognized everyone in the Parks and Recreation Department that have been involved with creating the parks master plan. He emphasized that that plan was specifically created for this city and it’s an incredible plan. He urged everyone to read it over, noting that it’s still a working document and will be a fifteen to twenty-five year project. He further emphasized that parks are the greatest safety valve they have to ensure open space. He noted that the master plan has been approved under the Parks and Recreation Department.

Ted Graybarz stated that he and Charles Carroll when conducted the RFP process and interviewed twenty firms and subsequently decided on a firm from Boston to devise the plan. He explained that what resonated from the plan was creating a new identity that created the frame work for a natural environment with pedestrian amenities along the waterfront. The implementation of the plan will transcend generation to generation to be remembered by our great children and it will not only be done for us, but for those that come after. He relayed that the plan has Congressman Hines support.

Jason Socoki stated that he created the master plan. He relayed that the effort resulted in engaging with the community and community leaders; as well as working with fifty kids to obtain feedback as to what they would like to see in the parks. Overall, it was a real joint effort. The frame work of how the master plan was created was explained and how they focused on some of the great assets in the city to integrate into the parks plan that will result in strengthening the neighborhood.

It was relayed that Trust Work Public Land that is based in San Francisco with an office in Connecticut is excited about the parks master plan. Their mission is to provide land for the people with access to the parks, playground or other natural space – *additional background information was relayed about the organization*. It was stated that they are pleased to be partnering with Bridgeport to create parks that compliment the neighborhood. It was noted that the feasibility study will focus on waterfront access, neighborhood parks etc., they will also meet with NRZ’s for their input and they will then gauge all the comments to determine design ideas and to ensure that community needs are met. A thank you to the city was expressed for partnering with them.

Juanita, Fairfield County Community Foundation stated that she believed in Bridgeport and supports the parks master plan. She relayed that the master plan has been a collaborative effort that was necessary to move forward. She further relayed the

foundation's commitment to keep Bridgeport strong. She offered some information regarding grants that were awarded. She expressed that their real goal is to keep lasting relationships as they progress with the master plan initiatives and they look forward to seeing the city evolve.

Mr. Graybarz stated that it will be a collective effort, so they need help with implementation of the plan; noting that collectively it will work. He urged support of the plan to allow them to move forward within the next five years.

Council member Holloway stated that the concept was great. He commented that he is a parks man and an avid tennis player who has coached youth. He recalled the shame of what happened to the tennis courts that was named after former Council member Johnny Dye, noting the bad condition the tennis courts are in. He stated that when they go out to the bid on parks; they should be sure to get people that will know how to do the proper construction and work. Mr. Graybarz responded that they intend to engage with professionals as the plan is implemented. He added that refurbishing of the tennis courts is included in the plan. Council member Holloway offered his advice for refurbishing the tennis courts.

Mayor Finch thanked everyone for their involvement with the parks master plan.

Council member Olson made a request that the parks on the west side be restored. Mayor Finch agreed that they will need to review the plan and offer input that will serve all neighborhoods equally. He highlighted that areas in the city that are underserved with parks should be included in the plan.

Council member Brantley encouraged her colleagues to utilize the local parks that are in their district to hold different social functions and events.

Mayor Finch expressed that overall, he was excited about the parks master plan.

#### **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

Approval of City Council Minutes: June 4, 2012

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER COLON SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mayor Finch read a review from the White House blog related to sustainability of neighborhoods, the blog highlighted Bridgeport, Connecticut as an example of that.

\*It was noted that Council member Holloway will be attending a conference on sustainability in Nashville.

Mayor Finch acknowledged visitor's from Local Carpenter's Union 210 that were present in support of Steel Pointe.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

- 105-11**      Communication from City Attorney re: Twenty day notice to Settle Litigation pursuant to Municipal Code Section 2.10.130: Lyndsay Fletcher, **ACCEPTED AND MADE PART OF THE RECORD.**
- 106-11**      Communication from Labor Relations and Benefits Administration re: Proposed Tentative Agreement with New England Health Care Employees Union, Local 1199 (Nurses) concerning their bargaining unit contract, referred to Contracts Committee.
- 107-11**      Communication from Central Grants and Community Development re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management for the FY 2012 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Local Pass Thru Program, referred to Public Safety and Transportation Committee.
- 108-11**      Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Bobby Gillon (R) to the Planning & Zoning Commission as an alternate, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 109-11**      Communication from Mayor re: Reappointment of Michael Piccirillo (D) to Zoning Board of Appeals Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.
- 110-11**      Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Edgar Rodriguez (D) to Planning & Zoning Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

**111-11**      Communication from OPM re: Modification to the FY 2013-2017 Five Year Capital Plan concerning the Longfellow School and Roosevelt School Projects, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

**112-11**      Communication from Finance Department re: Approval of Additional Capital Project Authorization to the 2013-2017 Capital Plan, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

**113-11**      Communication from Finance Department re: Approval of General Obligation Bonds – To Fund Certain Capital Improvement Projects, referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.

**\*\*            COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO REFER  
COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES  
\*\*            COUNCIL MEMBER M. McCARTHY SECONDED  
\*\*            MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):**

**\*85-11**      Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee Report re: Resolution regarding the Fixing of the Assessment on Personal Property 400 Megawatt UTC Fuel Cell Webster Bank Arena at Harbor Yard.

The city clerk read the consent calendar item into the record.

**\*\*            COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE  
\*\*            COUNCIL MEMBER COLON SECONDED  
\*\*            MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

New business:

**\*\*            COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE  
PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA  
\*\*            COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY SECONDED  
\*\*            MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO MOVED TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT RE: ITEM #97-11 AND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATE AND REPORT THE ATTACHED/ENCLOSED LIST OF RECOMMENDED CHANGES/AMENDMENTS IN AND TO THE DRAFT PROPOSED OF THE CHARTER REVISION REPORT TO THE CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Council member Martinez stated that item 102-11 went through committee and passed Unanimously.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ MOVED TO APPROVE ITEM 102-11 STEEL POINTE PROJECT AND INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER T. McCARTHY SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES FOR THE PURPOSE OF REFERRING AN ITEM TO COMMITTEE**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BRANNELLY MOVED TO REFER RE: RENEGOTIATE LEASE BETWEEN THE CITY OF BRIDGEPORT AND THE DOWNTOWN CABARET THEATRE**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER COLON SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY (Item #114-11)**

Other business:

Council President McCarthy recognized State Representative Ed Gomes in the audience.

He also recognized the Steel Pointe developer's: Robert W. Christoph Sr. and Robert Christoph Jr. in the audience.

Council President McCarthy expressed that it was a tremendous day for Bridgeport and the region. He said he was very proud of all the work the city council and the Mayor has done working hard year after year to finally see the project start to come to fruition; it was a **very proud day!**

Mayor Finch said he was proud of the city council for sticking by the administration and working hard. He expressed that he is going to be pleased to see what takes place in the near future!

Council member Olson commented about the problem with the microphone system. He noted that he is unable to hear the speakers clearly.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER HOLLOWAY MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER PAOLETTO SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham  
Telesco Secretarial Services